

SHIRE OF WANDERING

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ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS Minutes 18th March 2021

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Meeting declared open at 7:30pm by Shire President, Cr Turton

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE (PREVIOUSLY APPROVED)

Present:

Cr I Turton	Shire President	Cr B Whitely	
Cr G Parsons	Deputy Shire President	Cr M Watts	
Cr J Price		Belinda Knight	Chief Executive Officer
Cr G Curtis		Barry Gibbs	EMTS
Cr P Treasure			

Community:

Mr L Coonz	Ms L Coonz	Ms L Jones	Ms S Lemmers	Mr P Warburton
Ms R Warburton	Ms L Muller	Mr R Curtis	Mr T Martin	Ms J Cornish
Mr B Cornish	Ms L Wilkins	Mr M Wilkins	Ms S Little	Mr B Little
Mr S Bullock	Ms L Boddy	Mr K Boddy	Mr E Barrett	Mr R Treasure
Mr J Hansen	Mr S Brand	Ms S Cornish	Mr B Edwards	Mr K Price

Mr B Dowsett

Apologies:

Nil

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1. ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD – 05/02/2020

DECISION

Moved Ms J Cornish

Seconded Ms L Jones

That the Minutes of the General Meeting of Electors held 05/02/2020, be received.

CARRIED

4. 2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

4.1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Shire President read his report as follows:

In presenting the annual report for the 2019/2020 for our Shire I need to explain that its delivery to our Community is considerably later than Council normally expects. The State Government this year has been completing the changes for future auditing of local government Councils. Council only had the final documents delivered in person by our auditor at the recent February 2021 meeting. For those in our Community that are interested, a copy of the Audit is available online or through the Shire office. In summary the financial affairs of the Shire are sound for the period reviewed. The audit did highlight some areas that Council needs to address and our CEO, has already started to do that. It is worth mentioning that the new arrangements for local government audits will be significantly more detailed in the future covering a lot more than financial affairs and will be controlled by the Auditor General. Gone are the days where a Council was able to call for tenders to undertake the audit and it has now resulted in considerably more unfunded cost.

The beginning of the review period saw the Shire office under the control of our new CEO, Belinda Knight, and support managers Barry Gibbs and Alana Rosenthal. All these staff members came to the Shire with sound experience from not dissimilar Shires. Our outside works crew, under Brad Hunt, saw various road projects completed and the town and oval kept in very respectable order. It is worth noting that by the end of the review period the flood repair work and the associated financial funding was finally nearing completion. The decision to take this work on using our own staff and plant rather than letting it out to contract is questionable. The administration of the project was very costly. The period under review includes the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. I am sure we now realise how lucky we ultimately have been. I congratulate our community and in particular the Staff and Councillors who accepted the challenge and adhered to the rules of the day. Administration and operational work continued, and Council had its first "remote" meeting. Covid-19 has put a lot more meaning into our regional emergency preparation meetings that should see us handle similar circumstances even better. Extra funding due to Covid-19, since this period under review, has some positive financial aspects for our Shire.

The administration of our Shire and I suspect many others of our size and type continue to have increasing pressures from compliance issues heaped upon us. Our CEO spent many hours in this her first year with us updating and adhering to the requirements of the Local Government Act. Unfortunately, this continues and comes at a cost that prohibits advancing projects that are priorities for our community. Our total rate collection is used to cover wages and that does not include the purchase of often needed specialist help. That leaves Council to operate with remaining funds from various Government Grants and some expense recovery. I congratulate all involved in the review period that managed to maintain a healthy financial result.

In closing I thank Councillors for their thoughtful input and general support given to me during this period. I encourage members of our Community to be involved with as much as possible that happens in the Shire. Serving on Council is a great experience and I believe many in our Community are well capable of this service and should give it serious consideration.

4.2. CEO'S REPORT

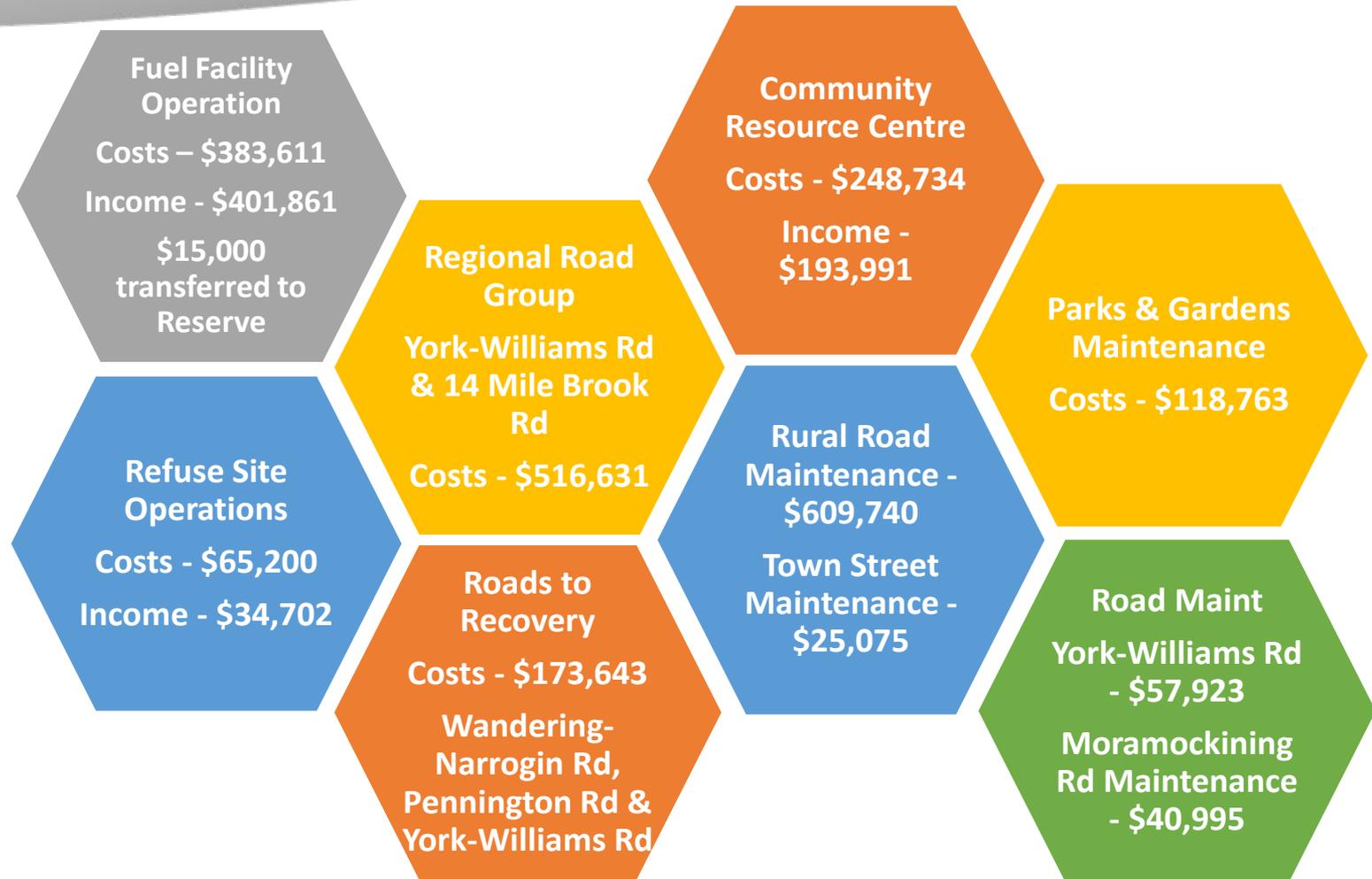
The CEO did provide the following PowerPoint presentation – the Snapshot of the Year.

2019/20 - YEAR IN REVIEW

Shire of Wandering



SNAP SHOT OF COSTS



SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Expenses

Statement of Comprehensive Expenses by Nature/Type:

Expenses 2019/2020

Operating Expenses

<u>Employee costs</u>	\$1,115,495
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All costs associated with the employment such as salaries, allowances, other benefits, superannuation, worker's compensation insurance, training, safety, FBT.

<u>Materials and contracts</u>	\$961,135
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All costs associated with materials, supplies and contracts, including contractors.

<u>Utility charges</u>	\$46,436
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Provision of power, water, gas – does not include telephones

<u>Depreciation</u>	\$1,116,142
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Depreciation on buildings, plant & equipment, and infrastructure

<u>Interest</u>	\$119
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Interest on loans

<u>Insurance</u>	\$89,895
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Insurance expenses, excluding Worker's Compensation

<u>Other expenditure</u>	\$48,576
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Including statutory fees, taxes, member fees, donations.

TOTAL	\$3,380,798
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SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Income

Statement of Comprehensive Income by Nature/Type:

<u>Expenses 2019/2020</u>	<u>Operating Income</u>
<u>Rates</u>	\$1,106,019
All rates levied under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .	
<u>Operating Grants</u>	\$791,246
All grants, subsidies and contributions that are non-capital in nature.	
<u>Fees & Charges</u>	\$622,701
All fees from the use of facilities, or for the provision of services, eg refuse collection, fuel facility.	
<u>Interest</u>	\$16,387
Interest on earnings	
<u>Other income</u>	\$48,576
Other revenue that cannot be classified above.	
TOTAL	\$2,591,788
<u>Non-Operating Grants</u>	\$510,157
All grants, subsidies and contributions for capital purchases.	

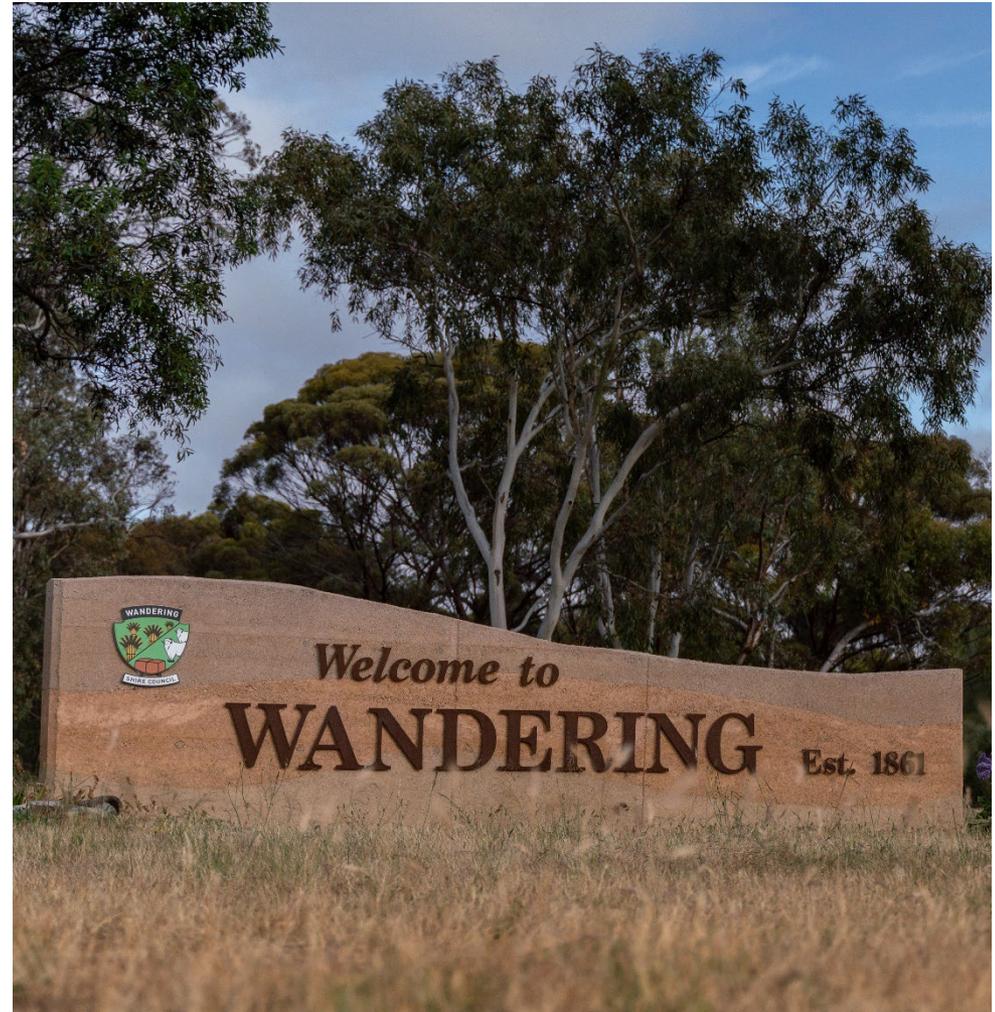
UNAVOIDABLE COST OF GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE

Administration:	\$649,558
Works Administration:	\$158,454
Housing:	\$68,264
Members of Council:	\$72,140
GROSS COST OF GOVERNANCE/COMPLIANCE	\$948,416

(This includes, salaries & wages, materials & contracts, insurance, utilities, etc)

To Council members and staff, I express my thanks for their support over the past twelve months and for their continuing efforts to ensure that the organisation operates in an efficient manner.

Belinda Knight,
Chief Executive Officer
2019/2020



4.3. ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT & AUDITOR'S REPORT

ADOPTION OF 2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Moved Ms R Warburton

Seconded Ms L Muller

That the Annual Report for the financial year ended 30/06/2020, including Auditor's Report, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr L Coonz - Query regarding the implementation of the GRV rating for rural residential properties – where is it at?

Shire President responded that Council is awaiting a decision from the Minister for Local Government following Council's decision to proceed. It is unknown if it may be implemented in 2021/2022.

Mr P Warburton – as a road user in the Shire, concerned about the amount of money spent on the York-Williams Road is not relative to the state of the road. Also concerned regarding lack of signage when Shire staff are working on the road, in particular roadside spraying.

Shire President responded, requesting the community report issues so they can be addressed by staff in a timely manner.

Ms L Jones queried if a community member puts in a complaint and gets a reply but is not happy how do they deal with it.

Cr Whitely advised how the complaints register works.

Ms L Jones – believes the CRC is the most important place in town, and noted that it has been closed on a couple of occasions. The community has to come first. Would like the CRC to open five days per week, even suggested that Australia Post could operate from the CRC if that would help keep it open longer hours.

The CEO responded that it was an unavoidable staffing situation, that is not ideal, but every effort is made to ensure it remains open.

Mr K Price – queried Corporate Business Plan – Plant Reserve in 22/23 in the Annual Report – concerned that the fund is being depleted.

The CEO & EMTS responded that the plant replacement program is fully funded for the forthcoming 10 years, with highs and lows, but never short funded. CEO gave a commitment to forward a copy of the adopted Plant Replacement Program to Mr Price.

Mr E Barrett – queried possible rate increases for the forthcoming year. Expressed concern regarding inaccurate and lack of information provided at the Community Meeting held during the public consultation period on the rate review.

The Shire President advised the expected rise may be in the order of 3% - 6%. Cr Whitely outlined that it is more than just rates, that government grants are dependent upon Council's rating structure being correct.

Mr E Barrett expressed concern that the need for rating structures to be correct to maximise grants was not raised at the Community Meeting.

Mr R Curtis – regarding Pumphrey's Bridge camping area, and having an honesty box for campers.

Shire President responded that Council is considering options for this area, including management and control of camping in the area.

Ms L Jones – queried what facilities are at Pumphrey's Bridge. Concerned that ratepayers are subsidising the free camping area.

Shire President responded that the Shire subsidises a lot of services, not just the Pumphrey's Bridge area.

Mr P Warburton – noted that Lions Club do maintain Pumphrey's as well.

Ms R Warburton – noted that Pumphrey’s is well known for being on the free camping publications.

Ms J Cornish requested that Cr Watts give a brief outline on the Wandering Community Centre Precinct Refurbishment project.

Cr Watts responded that the Committee had met with an architect to discuss the draft concept plan and that the community consultation process will commence once this plan has been drawn up.

6. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further questions, the Shire President thanked everyone for coming, and closed the meeting at 9:06pm.